REMARKS

Claims 50 and 53-71 and 73-83 are pending. Claims 80-91 are added. Claims 75-79 relate to a method of transaction processing using a comparator, per invention VII in the restriction mailed October 3, 2003 and thus Applicant respectfully requests examination of those claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicant(s) have cancelled claim 72 to address the informality.

Rejections under 35 USC §103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 50, 53-64 under §103(a). Applicant traverse the rejection, and respectfully submit that the above rejections are moot, in light of the cancellation of the claims.

CLAIM 50 IS ALLOWABLE OVER BERLIN AND ANDERSON

At block 92, the cited Berlin reference verifies quantities of items listed within the advanced ship list. However, Applicant fails to see where the Berlin reference discloses or suggests comparing total cost of goods received from and total cost of goods shipped as recited in clause (d) of claim 50. **Comparing quantities of items shipped in no way guarantees that the costs are equivalent**, which for payment purposes, is more important. Even if quantities match, cost of goods may not if the seller charges the wrong cost per time. Verifying quantities will not guarantee a match in cost. Applicant does not see where Berlin teaches or suggests a comparison in cost. As the cited Berlin reference fails to show the comparing total cost step, Claim 50 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited art.

Berlin also fails to compare total cost of goods **received**. Berlin is directed at validating an advanced shipment notice list against a purchase order planned receipt list. It does not have received information since the **Berlin comparison is occurring prior to receipt**.

Furthermore, Applicant does not see where the Berlin reference teaches clause (f) of claim 50, reciting **electronically comparing** selected purchase order detail information and selected invoice detail according to predetermined rules if the total costs are not within the predetermined tolerances. If the selected information satisfies the predetermined rules, then there is payment of invoices provided, as discussed in clause g. Berlin does not have such teachings. The Examiner has pointed to Berlin at Col. 5, lines 28-39. As set forth at Col. 5, lines 30-32, however, there is language that teaches against the elements taught by the present invention. Berlin teaches that there is a generation of a discrepancy referral and notification to an individual to begin manual investigation. **The investigation in Berlin is manual and conducted by a person.** There is no teaching of clauses f and g as set forth in Claim 50. Applicant does not see where Anderson rectifies the deficiencies of Berlin. Additionally, Berlin with its manual investigation, appears to teach against the electronic handling as discussed in claim 50. Accordingly, Claim 50 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited art.

Still further, **Berlin only teaches exact matches**. Block 92 in Figure 2C of Berlin asks if quantities are equal. **There is no teaching or suggestion of a tolerance**, which may allow for a range of unequal numbers to allow for approval of payment. The art fails to teach the concept of a tolerance and thus Claim 50 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited art.

Although not limited to the following, support for the new claims can be found as noted below. For example, support for new claim 80 can be found at page 6, lines 12-13 and page 16, line 4 of the application as filed. Support for claim 81 can be found at page 6, lines 18-19. Support for claims 82-83 can be found at page 6, lines 18-19. Support for claims 82-83 can be found at page 6, lines 18-19 and page 9, lines 5-16. Support for claims 84 can be found at page 6, lines 13-15, page 7, lines 2-3, page 9, line 5, and the application generally. Support for claims 85 can be found at page 5, lines 17-18.

CLAIM 75 IS ALLOWABLE

Claim 75 and its dependent claims are allowable for substantially the same reason as Claim 50 since Claim 75 recites a predetermined tolerance.

CLAIM 87 IS ALLOWABLE

Claim 87 is allowable for substantially the same reason as Claim 50. Claim 87 also recites that the predetermined tolerance is from a tolerance table containing data for a plurality of clients wherein at least one tolerance entry from one client is different from tolerance for at least one other client. Support can be found at page 20, lines 13-16 of the application as filed.

None of the cited references, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest an actuator having predetermined tolerance is from a tolerance table containing data for a plurality of clients wherein at least one tolerance entry from one client is different from tolerance for at least one other client. Additionally, dependent claims 88-91 are allowable as they depend from an allowable independent claim, among other reasons. Although not limited to the following, support for new claims 88-93 can be found at page 4, lines 11-20, page 5, lines 7-12, and figure 9 and related text on page 26 starting at line 22.
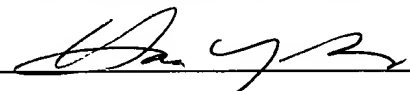
CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) submit(s) that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the same.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Docket No. 40877-1002). *A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____AuG. 26 2004_____

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